Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Saturday 12 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Sunday 13 Dec 2020

Forecast Issued on Saturday 12 Dec 2020 at 02:47

Confidence: Generally high for the weekend, but a few hours uncertainty in timing of rain arriving on Sunday morning. High for remaining breezy and unsettled early next week, but low exact details.

Headline for Saturday 12 Dec 2020: Rain in the morning, cloudy but drier in the afternoon. Feeling cold in the wind.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 12 Dec 2020

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Low Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Light rain	Mist	Cloudy	Partly cloudy (night)	Fog
Precipitation probability					
70%	80%	20%	10%	<05%	<05%

Forecast for Saturday 12 Dec 2020

Weather: Persistent rain and drizzle through much of the morning. Becoming mainly dry by midday, but some patchy drizzle likely across western Fells through the afternoon, some brighter spells across the eastern Fells. Dry but mostly cloudy after dark.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 20-30%, frequent cloud above 500-600m, best chance of any breaks across the eastern Fells. Becoming 70-80% after dark as cloud breaks up, but patches lingering on the higher Fells.

Visibility: A few kilometres in rain during the morning, but becoming good at low levels by the afternoon. Mostly poor on the tops through the day but improving in the evening as cloud lifts and thins.

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Forecast for Saturday 12 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	18/22 NW	22/27 NW	24/29 NW	20/25 NW	15/18 W	10/13 SW	11/13 S
600	15/20 NW	19/25 NW	20/27 NW	17/23 NW	13/18 W	10/14 W	9/13 S
300	8/18 NW	10/22 NW	10/23 NW	8/18 NW	6/14 W	4/10 W	4/9 S
Valley	7/18 NW	9/21 NW	11/23 NW	8/17 W	6/14 W	4/11 W	3/7 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	2/-3	2/-5	1/-6	1/-5	1/-5	0/-4	0/-4
600	4/-0	4/-2	3/-2	3/-2	2/-2	2/-2	2/-2
300	6/3	5/2	5/2	5/3	5/2	4/2	4/2
Valley	8/6	8/5	8/5	7/5	7/5	6/5	6/4
Freezing Level*	1300m	1200m	1100m	1000m	1000m	1000m	900m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

A chilly feel in the wind.

Forecast for Sunday 13 Dec 2020

Weather: Dry but cloudy through the early hours. Persistent rain arrives around dawn, falling as snow above 800m for the first hour or so, but soon turning to rain at all levels. Rain turns heavier around midday with severe gales developing across the summits. Rain clearing to frequent showers between late afternoon and early evening. Showers continuing overnight.

Maximum wind: South 25-30 mph increasing to 50 gusting 65 mph by midday. Becoming South-southwest 35 gusting 40 mph by evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Generally 10% or less through daylight hours, extensive cloud above 400-500m in the south, 600-700m in the north, perhaps a few breaks across the northern Fells. Becoming 50-60% after dusk, cloud tending to break up but lingering on the higher Fells.

Visibility: poor or very poor. Occasionally good from late afternoon on the norther Fells.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 5 Celsius rising to 7 Celsius in the afternoon and 10 Celsius in the evening.
At 800m: Around zero Celsius rising to 3 or 4 Celsius in the afternoon.
Freezing level: 1000m, rising above the summits before dawn.

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Ground Conditions Supplement
Friday 11 December Helvellyn summit at 12:45
The thaw continues at all levels; around 1pm, it was plus 3 degrees and starting to rain on the summit. Large areas of the fells up to and including summit level are now free from snow. That said, above 700m significant patches of snow remain and especially so above 800m. Where undisturbed, these were mostly wet and thawing; however on popular routes, where the snow has been compacted, there remains hard snow and ice which is both treacherous and will take longer to thaw. Microspikes could be useful here. In addition, in sheltered spots and hollows drifts capable of swallowing a 55cm ice axe can still be found, although such depth is the exception.
Exposed routes above the snowline of 700m, such as Striding and Swirral Edges, require extreme care. The crest of Striding Edge was mostly wet, slippery rock whereas there was more snow on Swirral. Both exits still have banks of unavoidable snow which has been compacted in places. It would only take a marginal drop in temperature for the soft snow and water to turn back into hard snow and ice making such routes far more treacherous. Hence it remains essential for anyone tackling such exposed routes above the snow line to carry ice axe and crampons, especially when descending. Indeed the Fell Top Assessor used an ice axe to descend Swirral on Friday. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone venturing out onto the fells. Owing to the summit temperature being so close to freezing, those venturing above the snowline must be prepared to encounter more ice and hard snow than experienced and described on Friday. Climbers: Given the soft nature of the snowpack and the ground not being frozen, routes are not in condition. Temperature: plus 2.8 deg C Maximum wind speed 10.8mph Wind chill: minus 2.1 deg C Average wind speed: 7.1mph

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